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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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July 27, 2018

RE: State Opioid Response (SOR) Grant

To Whom it may Concern:

Please accept this letter for consideration regarding the State Opioid Response (SOR) proposal.

The New Hampshire Department of Education's Bureau of Student Wellness works in collaboration with local communities, school districts, families, NHDHHS' Division for Children, Youth and Families, Juvenile Justice Services, Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services, Office of Minority Health and Refugee Affairs, NH Parent and Family Organizations, Regional Mental Health Centers, and other various partners to support the expansion and sustainability of a coordinated, statewide level system of care to support children, youth and families by making an array of services available and by increasing the ways for families to be supported and involved.

With this goal in mind, the Bureau of Student Wellness respectfully requests that you consider allocating some of the State Opioid Response (SOR) Grant funds to expand the statewide capacity to improve integrated crisis response services, specifically to rural areas of New Hampshire, through the development and implementation of mobile crisis teams using a telehealth model.

Through a comprehensive needs assessment, environmental scan and gaps analysis, it has been identified that New Hampshire's rural school districts and communities have little to no access to telehealth /mobile health (mental and behavioral health) crisis response services - 24/7 and/or other emergency mental & behavioral health services. The goal of implementing a telehealth / mobile mental and behavioral health crisis team model would be to have critical, necessary staff available when and where families need them to ensure an appropriate response to children, youth and families who are in crisis, at the time that they are in crisis, and to help alleviate unnecessary emergency room visits, psychiatric hospitalizations and/or other disruptions that occur in their homes.

Making a telehealth /mobile crisis team model available to provide 24/7 emergency, services, outreach and intervention to children, youth and families is a vital and essential component in the creation of effective systems of care in rural areas of the state that have limited resources available, and will support efforts to expand capacity to prevent drug overdoses and mental health crises in these areas. If you have any questions regarding this request please contact me at michelle.myler@doe.nh.gov or at (603) 271-4018.

Sincerely,

Michelle Myler

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michelle M. Myler".

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